

BILLERICAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1941.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT:

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. J. Douglas Wells, O.B.E. (Mil).

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS & PUBLIC VACCINATORS:

Dr. Arthur Quennell

Dr. R. Bonesman

Dr. J. C. Campbell

Pathologist:

Dr. Suckling, 91 Queen Victoria St., London E.C.

Sanitary Inspector: A.L.Ledden, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.

Second Sanitary Inspector: R.S.Shears, M.S.I.A.,
A.R.San.I.

Surveyor: H.B.Mayhew, F.I.A.S.

Deputy Surveyor: H.J.M.Baker, A.M.Inst. M.&Cy.E.

Building Inspectors: T.G.Gozzett,
T.D.Merrett.

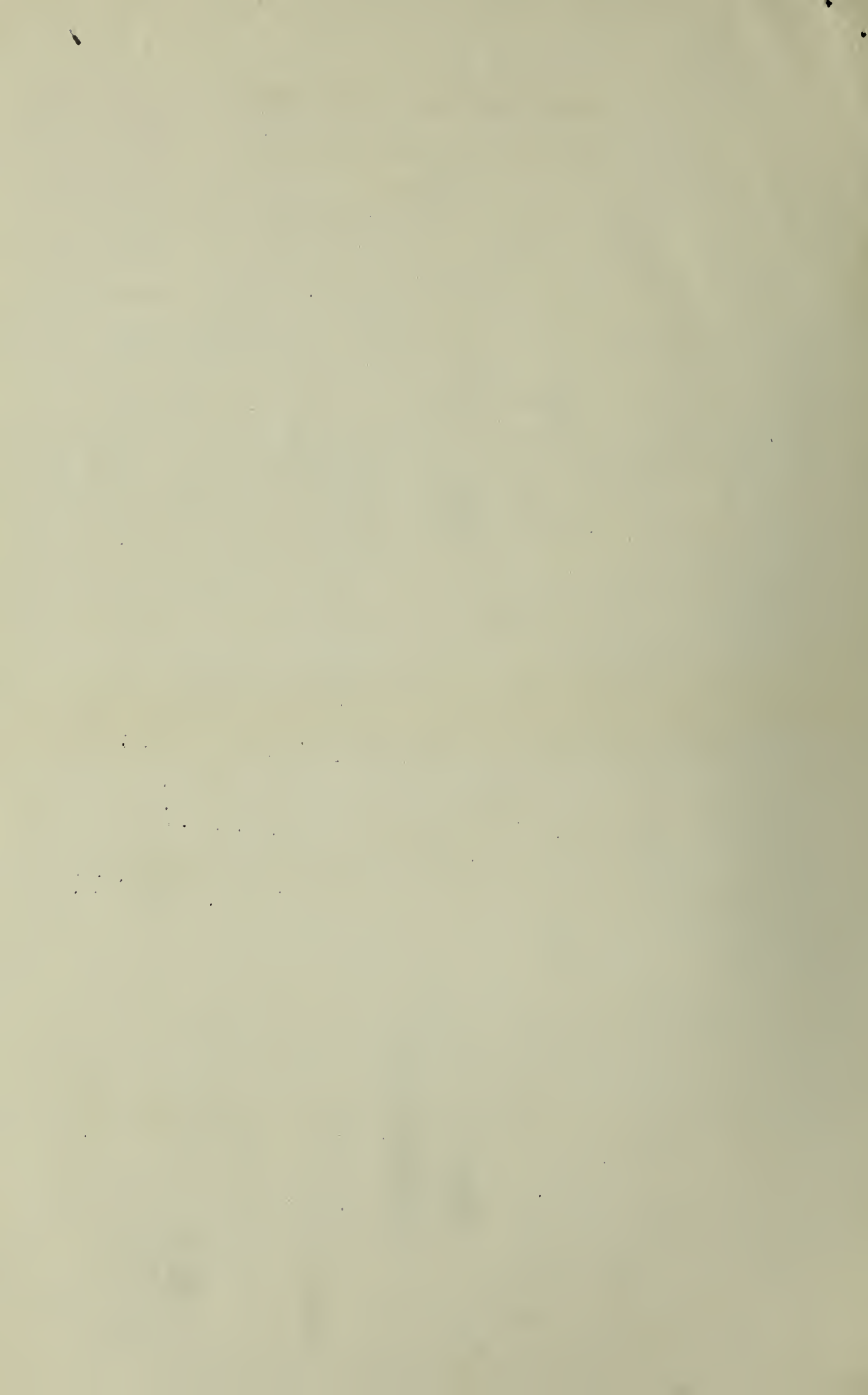
Manager of Sewage Disposal Works: D.M.Betts, M.Inst.S.P.

Highways & General Engineering Assistant: E.F.Randerson.

To the Chariman and Members of the Billericay Urban
District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present for your consideration my
Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of
the Billericay Urban District for the year ending 31st
December 1941.



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.

twice

Area : 29,217 acres.
Population: 39,770. X
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1941 according
to the rate books : 12,050. X
Rateable Value : £197,664.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate : £775.

POPULATION.

The population of this district for the year 1941 is given as 39,770 by the Registrar General, and on that figure the Vital Statistics have been worked out.

On this figure there is a noticeable fall in the Death Rate from 15.7 in 1940 to 14.03 for 1941.

This population excludes the members of the armed forces in the area.

It is still a population which is always varying, although since the marked lessening of enemy activity in London and its suburbs there have not been the sudden influxes of population which were noticeable in 1940 and the earlier months of 1941.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:	Legitimate	<u>Total</u> 578	<u>M.</u> 297	<u>F.</u> 281
	Illegitimate	27	9	18
Total Birth Rate, Legitimate & Illegitimate:		<u>15.2</u>		
Still Births:		16	10	6
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live & Still Births:		<u>25.8</u>		

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
558	298	260

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 14.03
Puerperal Sepsis: Nil.
Other Puerperal causes: 1.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

1. All Infants per 1,000 Live Births: 40.9
2. Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births: 24.05
3. Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births: 35.7

Deaths from Cancer (all ages): 102. Rate: 2.6.

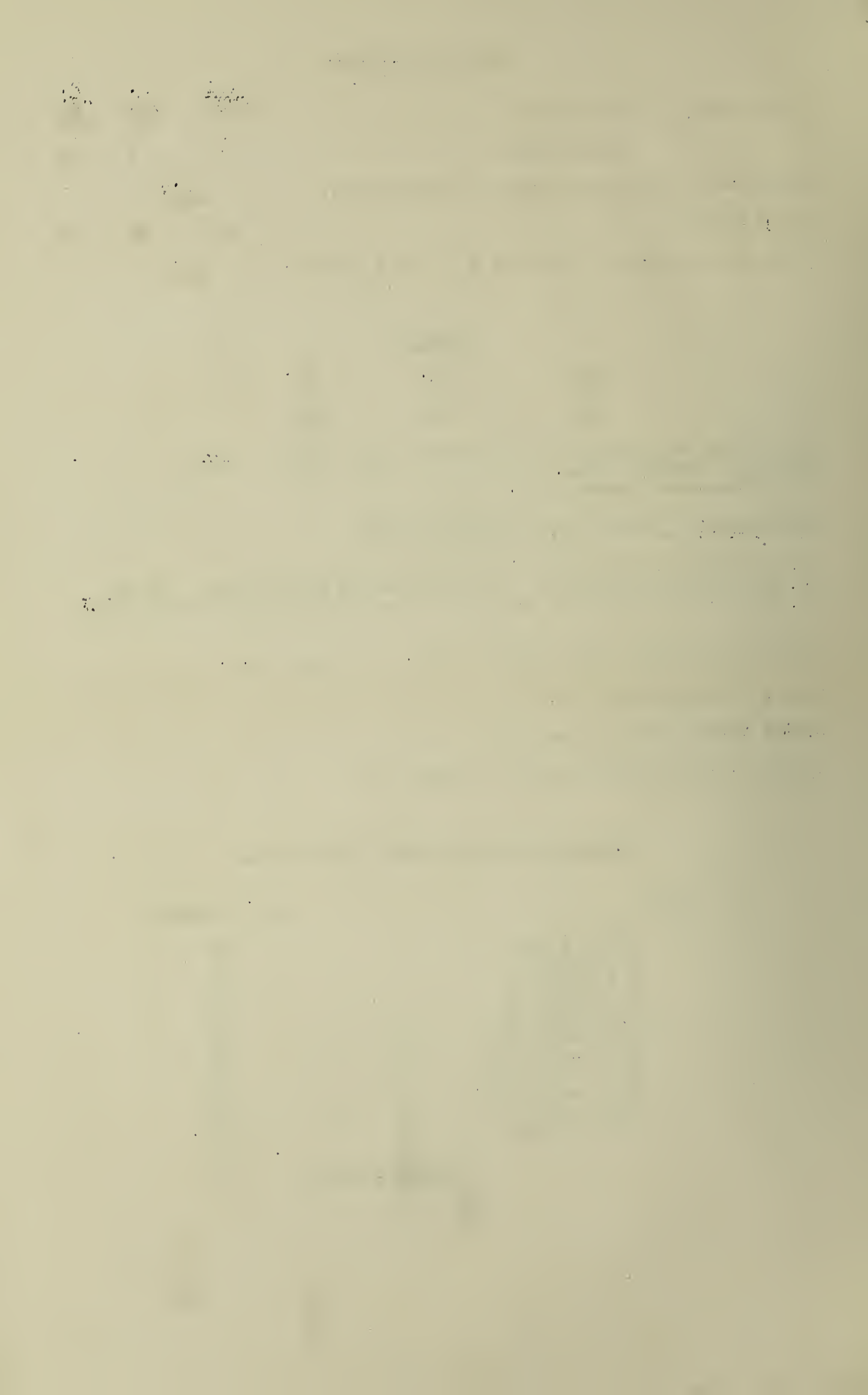
Deaths from Measles: 2.

Deaths from Whooping Cough: 4.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years): 5.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1941

<u>Age</u>	<u>No. of deaths</u>
Under 1 year	24
1 & under 2	8
2 & under 5	10
5 & under 15	10
15 & under 25	13
25 & under 35	15
35 & under 45	22
45 & under 55	33
55 & under 65	87
65 & under 75	175
75 & upwards	<u>161</u>
<u>Total deaths:</u>	558



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA

A. Laboratory Facilities.

The services of the Counties Public Health Laboratory are no longer available. There has been substituted for this the Emergency Medical Services Laboratory situated in the grounds of St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay.

B. Ambulance Facilities.

These are the same as given in my Report for last year, but in addition the military authorities now permit their ambulances to be called upon, where they are available, and no other ambulance is available, for transporting emergency cases to hospital other than infectious disease cases.

C. Nursing in the home.

No change has been made.

D. Treatment Centres, Welfare & School Clinics.

These are under the control of the County Council.

E. Hospitals.

(1) St. Andrew's Hospital, owned by the County Council, and the Emergency Medical Services Hospital attached to it, has been in active use all through the year.

(2) The Infectious Disease Hospital, situated at Gooseberry Green, Billericay, takes all the infectious disease cases, with the exception of tuberculosis, and Small Pox, from the area under the South Essex Joint Hospital Board.

The number of beds at this hospital has been increased from 38 to 59 by the erection of four wooden huts. In these huts additional accommodation for the staff has also been provided. The additional accommodation provided consists of twenty one beds, some in two-bed cubicles and others in one ward of eight beds.

BILLERICAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 1942

Sanitary Inspection of the Area :-

Dwelling houses with respect to defects :-	
under Public Health Acts	254
Housing Acts	506
Dwelling houses with respect to Overcrowding	42
Premises with respect to Vermin	75
Factories	12
Slaughterhouses, Meat and other food shops and stalls	504
Cowsheds and dairies	184
Watercourses, ditches and other nuisance inspections	196
Dwelling houses with respect to Infectious Disease	111
Houses visited with respect to water supply and water shortage	122
Shops (Shops inspected)	3
Premises with respect to sewer connections	8
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	21
Essex County Council Act, 1933 (Tents, vans and sheds)	22
Essex County Council Act, 1933 (Hairdress premises)	1
Premises with respect to billeting :-	
Hospital Staff	212
Refugees from London and other towns	1,836
Visits regarding disposal of war dead	7
Visits regarding decontamination of food	53
Communal Shelters	12
	<hr/>
	4,181

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year water mains extended in the area were as follows:-

Under guarantee by the Council	-
Not guaranteed by the Council	1,000 yards
	<u>1,000</u> yards

At the end of the year there were 580 premises connected to guaranteed mains, and 8918 premises connected to non-guaranteed mains.

There is still a great need for the improvement in water services, but the continuance of hostilities prevents any large scale schemes being put into effect.

Water samples taken during the year were as follows :-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Main supply	4	-
Rain water wells	1	9
Spring Wells	-	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5	11

In the case of rain water wells action was taken in instances where the supply was found to be unsatisfactory and the wells were cleaned out, repaired and filled with main water at a charge made to the applicants of 10s. 0d. per 1,000 gallons, the water being delivered by the Council's conveyances. The samples were taken from spring wells as the result of the submission of plans for the erection of dwelling houses, in each case the plans were rejected.

Very dry periods were experienced in the early summer and autumn and several applications were received for supplies of water. During the year 14 premises were supplied with water.

SHOP ACTS, 1912 - 1936.

SUNDAY TRADING RESTRICTION ACT.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1938.

Very little action was taken during the year. Now that most commodities are rationed, shops close at an earlier hour than the hours set out in the Acts, the necessity for regular visits is, therefore, curtailed.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints have been received during the year of any nuisances caused by smoke and no action has been taken.

ERADICATION OF THE BED BUG.

No routine inspections have been made to premises to detect the presence of bed bugs but several applications have been received for assistance in defestation. As in previous years vermicide (Lethane L 384) has been provided free of charge and sprayers have been loaned gratis.

Lethane has been proved to be a very effective substance and where premises have been treated with this product no further complaints have been received.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are three private swimming baths in the District, one is situate at Vange and is a sea water pool on a tidal creek, the water is frequently changed. The other pools are at Buttsbury near to Lake Meadows (the Council's recreation ground) the water is constantly changing as it is fed by an overflow from the lake, and at Nelson Road, Laindon, supplied by water from the Southend Waterworks Company's main. No samples of water have been obtained from the pools but no complaints as to the condition of the water have been received.

HOUSING.

During the year 506 visits were made to dwelling houses for defects under the Housing Acts and 57 houses were made fit, the majority of the visits were re-inspections. It is becoming increasingly difficult to get repairs done owing to the shortage of labour and materials. Many of the owners of properties are anxious to carry out repairs but owing to the circumstances mentioned are unable to put their premises in one hundred per cent good condition.

As the result of Orders made previous to the outbreak of hostilities two houses were demolished, one closed and one part building closed.

In one instance proceedings were taken against an agent for failure to comply with a Notice to carry out repairs and the defendant was fined £1. 0. 0d. and an order made by the Court for him to carry out repairs within two weeks.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

254 visits were made to premises where complaints were received respecting nuisances and where nuisances were found to exist notices were served which had the effect of abatement. Most of the nuisances were caused by the incorrect methods of slop water and night soil disposal chiefly by persons who have evacuated to this District from the London Area and who have little knowledge of country sanitation. A word of advice, however, is appreciated by the delinquents.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. MILK SUPPLY.

The number of registered producers and retailers at the end of 1941 were as follows :-

<u>Wholesale Producers</u> & <u>Producers & Purveyors</u>	<u>Retail Purveyors</u>
96	36

During the year 184 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies and where it was found that the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order were being infringed, preliminary notices were served and in most cases these were complied with.

Extensive improvements were carried out at 7 farms in spite of the shortage of labour and materials. In most cowsheds blackout has been provided to windows bby means of sacking and although this cannot be regarded as satisfactory both as regards light and cleanliness I do not see what other method can be adopted.

14 samples of milk were taken for Methylene Blue and Coliform tests, of these 9 were found to be satisfactory and 5 unsatisfactory. Action was taken in the unsatisfactory cases which resulted in better conditions prevailing.

MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS ORDERS.

During the year licences to use Special Designations were issued as follows :-

Accredited (Bottling Licences)	2
Tuberculin Tested (Sale)	6
Pasteurised (Sale)	9
Pasteurised (Bottling Licence)	1
	<u>18</u>

This is a decrease of one on the previous year.

At the end of 1941 licences were in force for the production of Designated Milks as follows :-

Tuberculin Tested	6
Accredited	40
	<u>46</u>

These licences were granted by the Essex County Council.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the year 504 visits were made to slaughterhouses, meat and food shops and stalls. This number is slightly below that of 1940 due to the fact that all slaughterhouses have been closed by virtue of the coming into force of the Livestock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order, 1940, and also that many of the food stalls in the markets have now been closed down by further rationing of food.

Proceedings were instituted in two instances for the sale of unsound fish and convictions obtained in each case, the defendants being fined £10 and £15 respectively.

Advice has frequently been sought by the Ministry of Food on the question of illicit slaughtering and in one instance the Sanitary Inspector was called as a witness in court proceedings instituted by the Ministry.

During the year the following food was condemned:-

Onions	70 lbs.
Sausages	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Cheese	33 lbs.
Butter	38 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Fish	943 lbs.
Meat	447 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Eggs	703 in number

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were 7 houses erected during 1941 of which 1 was provided with a water closet and 6 with pail closets. During the same period 34 existing premises were connected to the sewer.

BILLETING.

Heavy raiding on London and the provinces continued during the early part of the year which entailed a considerable amount of work on the Public Health Department which was responsible for the Billeting Department.

During the year 2048 visits were made for billeting purposes and of this number 212 were made for the purpose of billeting hospital staff under the Emergency Medical Service Scheme.

Most of the refugees were those from the London area but persons rendered homeless as the result of incidents in the area were quickly dealt with and re-housed in a satisfactory manner.

As the year progressed the billeting problem became less acute due to the slackening of enemy action on the Country. In June the Ministry of Health issued a circular stressing the importance of the Sanitary Inspector's duties and the shortage of Sanitary Inspectors and advising Local Authorities to release Sanitary Inspectors from Civil Defence Duties which did not call for technical knowledge. Under the circumstances the Council released the Public Health Department from billeting duties and appointed a Chief Billeting Officer to administer the work.

During the year proceedings were taken by the Ministry of Health on information supplied by the Sanitary Inspector, then Chief Billeting Officer, against a billetor obtaining money under false pretences. A conviction was obtained and the defendant was fined £25.

A. L. LEDDEN

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

10th April, 1942.

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Food Poisoning	Scarlet Fever	Chicken Pox	Erysipelas	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	pneumonia.
Billericay	160	20	19	2	5	5	3	1	2
Laindon	258	69	14	-	27	-	-	2	1
Wickford	191	18	1	-	7	4	-	-	6
N. Benfleet	9	2	11	-	1	1	-	-	-
Pitsea	156	45	9	-	9	20	1	3	-
R. Bellhouse	12	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Vange	80	22	3	-	5	2	-	1	2
Basildon	47	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Dunton	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Lt. Burstoad	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
L'don Hills	21	6	5	2	2	-	-	-	-
Nevendon	19	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	1
B. Gifford	8	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Crays Hill	12	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Gt. Burstoad	18	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Downham	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R'den Heath	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R'den Crays	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fobbing	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tarpots	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corringham	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTALS:</u>	1003	198	53	4	61	37	7	7	13

<u>Age in Years:</u>	<u>Under 1.</u>	<u>1-2</u>	<u>2-3</u>	<u>3-4</u>	<u>4-5</u>	<u>5-10</u>	<u>10-15</u>	<u>15-20</u>	<u>20-35</u>	<u>35-45</u>	<u>45-65</u>	<u>65 on</u>
Diphtheria:	-	3	4	1	4	20	8	7	5	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	-	2	2	5	1	26	10	8	5	-	1	-
Chicken Pox	1	2	1	3	2	21	3	2	2	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	2	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	2	2
Measles	21	62	70	76	119	539	74	12	13	2	2	-
Whooping Cough	15	20	24	18	28	86	6	-	1	-	-	-
<u>TOTALS:</u>	38	89	103	105	156	697	102	30	28	7	8	2

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES -----

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary.</u>	
	m.	f.	m.	f.
under 1	-	-	1	1
1 - 5	-	1	1	1
5 - 15	2	3	4	5
15 - 25	11	10	-	1
25 - 35	13	2	-	-
35 - 45	12	5	-	-
45 - 55	2	1	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-
65 onwards	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>TOTAL</u> :	45	22	8	8
	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>

THE PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The health of the district has remained good during the year, and this is a condition which can be justly considered highly satisfactory in a war time year where rationing and other conditions do not make the job of health keeping and house keeping easy.

There was an outbreak of measles in the winter of 1941 and again in the autumn: in all, one thousand cases of measles were notified, but out of this number there were only two deaths. Measles has been made a notifiable disease only since war began and it is not, therefore, possible to make a comparison with any previous year, and although one thousand sounds a big number it is doubtful whether this figure is comparatively greater than in some of the pre-war years when epidemics of this disease occurred.

In the early part of 1941 up to the end of May many self-evacuated persons arrived in this area after the destruction of their homes, or neighboring homes and buildings, due to enemy action in London and its suburbs, but since this lessened to a marked extent these arrivals have been fewer and some who came have returned to the districts in which they formerly lived. But there are yet a number of houses in this district in which more than one family live and there is an unhealthy overcrowding in some of these houses.

This is a difficult matter to remedy. The number of available houses is fewer owing to the demolition of some by enemy action and by the taking over of houses by the military authorities for the billeting of soldiers. Further, it is not permissible to build any new houses and the condition which has to be faced up to is that there is a larger population and fewer houses to house it in. Further, very little repair or doing up of houses is possible as only the most urgent repairs are permitted, and so some of the older cottages are falling into disrepair and on this account their housing accommodation is lessened.

There has been a marked increase in the number of scabies cases since the evacuation from London began. A number of these evacuees appear to have brought this condition with them. The overcrowding and lack of bathing and washing facilities in many of the houses has helped to spread it. I am not in a position to give figures of the number of cases which have occurred, but the number runs well into a four figure one.

This condition and the menace to health caused by it has necessitated organised cleansing and treatment facilities to be provided all over the district. The Health Visitors, working from the Welfare Centres and Schools, have done excellent work in finding out these cases and in supervising and carrying out the treatment of so many of them. Special beds for treatment have been allotted at St. Andrew's Hospital. The bathing facilities provided at First Aid Posts and Cleansing Centres for Gas Decontamination have been freely and effectively used for the treatment of this disease. The infected bedding and clothing from houses where these cases have occurred has been disinfected at the Billericay Isolation Hospital.

Some cases of lice and bed bugs have occurred, mostly arising in Civil Defence Posts where sleeping accommodation is provided for personnel on duty at night. These have been promptly dealt with.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

This has been carried on actively during the year. Propaganda leaflets have been distributed to many homes, through the Infant Welfare Centres and the Schools.

During the year 1717 children were immunised in this district. Of this total 351 were under 5 years of age, 1366 were between the ages of 5 and 15.

The propaganda issued through the B.B.C. has been very helpful in bringing home to many parents the advisability of taking advantage of the free offer.

WELFARE HUTS.

The Ministry of Health has agreed to my suggestion of providing several Welfare Huts in different parts of the district. These huts are primarily for the evacuee population and for people living in crowded houses where facilities for personal bathing, for washing, ironing and mending clothes are not always available. They also provide centres where people can meet each other and chat together and where short talks can be given on the many branches of domestic science. Such talks give instruction and information which will help to make the homes of the people happier, cleaner and healthier.

Huts were erected at Laindon, Wickford and Vange. The cost was entirely a charge on the Government and there is no charge on the local rates for them. Furniture and fittings have been supplied by the Ministry of Supply.

I had hoped to have all these huts in working order by the summer of 1942, but unfortunately the type of hut supplied (known as the Maycrete Hut) has proved unsatisfactory. The walls and roof cracked badly soon after erection and the huts became not weather- or water-proof. This matter was reported by me to the architect who got into touch with the Ministry. The result of this is that in one case the hut is to be taken down and rebuilt in brick, in another brick walls are to be built all around it, in the third it is thought that the necessary repairs can be done to it to render it weather-proof and fit for use. The delay caused by this is regretted.

MILK PRODUCTION.

The release of my Sanitary Inspectors from their duties as Billeting Officers has enabled the inspections of dairies and cowsheds to be done more thoroughly. The inspections of, and visits to, dairy farms are perhaps more important in war time than even in the days of international peace.

The dairy farmer has not an easy job in these war days. He is urged to produce more milk - and most of the 96 dairy farms are producing more milk - and he is also required to plough up much of his pasture land and to grow cereal and root crops. He is told that he must try to produce enough food on his own farm to feed his cows throughout the winter. He has had many of his men, especially the younger, fitter and more energetic ones, taken away from him to join one of the armed services. He and his men are asked and expected to work longer hours on the farm and, in addition, many of them are required to do part-time service in the Home Guard or in some branch of Civil Defence.

Is it to be wondered at that cowsheds are not always cleaned out as often as the regulations require or that manure from the cowsheds is dumped nearer to the shed than it should be? Yet the importance of producing clean milk is as great or greater than ever.

Infringements of the regulations have been found on some farms, but I have found that these are cheerfully and willingly rectified after a friendly talk with the farmer. There are a few farmers in the district who make the war an excuse for slackness, but they are very few. The dairy farmers are doing a wonderful and splendid job producing more abundant clean milk under difficult and trying conditions and doing it cheerfully, smilingly and patiently, and with a determination that they will do their part in this national job of winning the war.

HOUSING.

The Housing problem to-day is in some degree a simple one. No new houses may be built; houses destroyed by enemy action cannot be rebuilt; lack of material and labour for housing repairs makes it such that only very urgent repairs can be done.

Although this standstill order has been made and is being carried out, no standstill order applied to the natural wearing out and falling into decay of house property. Such winters as we have had the past two years tend to hasten the disintegration of buildings, especially old buildings.

I want to put before this authority the long view, rather than the limited war view, of the housing problem. When victory and peace come a large number of new houses of the working class type will be required in this district. I would put forward my view that now is the time to begin considering the problem so that, when conditions become more normal and building is allowed, this authority may have a scheme for their district ready to get to work on.

The items which can be usefully considered to-day are:-

1. In which parts of this district is the provision of houses most urgent?
2. What type of house is to be constructed? I suggest that the type be not too uniform in appearance over the whole district, that the type be in accordance with the traditions and nature of the district.
3. Who is to build these houses? Is it to be left to private enterprise or is the local authority to do this?
4. Are these houses to be erected in groups, making small picturesque housing estates with good roads and all the utility services available, or is there to be the indiscriminate planting down of houses such as this district has suffered from in the past and is suffering from to-day?

Since the end of the last Great War too little thought has been given by the builders to blending the new houses into the larger outlook of the district as a whole, and so preserving the amenities of what nature has made a beautiful countryside.

This urban district is still in reality a rural area, a typical piece of English countryside, a piece of England worth fighting for. Is there anything more peaceful, satisfying and attractive than to travel through this district in the early morning of a fine autumn day and drink in the beauty of the autumn tints on trees and hedges? It is worth a lot of study and effort and time to keep the beauties of this district, to prevent any part of it from becoming a slum.

Is there to be in the future the same haphazard development as there has been in the past twenty years? Is there to be ribbon or estate development?

The type of house provided by any authority, local or central, should contain sufficient rooms of an adequate size to permit the occupants to enjoy a comfortable home, where children can be brought up with decency and with regard to morality on the separation of the sexes - a home where, as they grow up, they will be content to spend many of their evenings in some useful hobby and not be driven by discomfort and overcrowding to spend all their leisure time at cinemas dance halls and Public Houses or on the streets - one where these young folk can entertain friends of their own age.

This war has uprooted so many young people out of their homes. It has scattered them far and wide over the world. I think that when it is all over there will be a marked reaction to home life. The war will have satisfied their wanderlust. Many of them will seek for homes of their own, others to come back to the old home.

Will these old homes be fit and adequate? Will there be new homes ready for the men and women who have been on active service on the fighting and industrial fronts?

I want to suggest to this authority that it appoint a committee now to study the problem and the whole district with the end in view of having a plan ready for when the time comes to strike our tents and get on the march of social progress once more.

Three very good and detailed reports have been published since this war began on the future use and development of the land of this country. I refer to the Barlow Commission, the Scott and Uthwatt reports, the latter one perhaps the most instructive because it sums up the recommendations of the other two and carries these further. The conclusion in them all is that a central body is advisable to organise and control land development so that the land may be apportioned fairly between agriculture and light and heavy industry, with space and adjustment for dwelling houses with healthy environment and open spaces. But any central body will have to depend in great measure upon local knowledge of the district, and it must be through a body such as your Council that they can acquire local knowledge.

I would suggest that, in addition to the members of your Council whom you place on this committee, such bodies as the local Rural Community Council Committees be asked to send representatives onto this committee. The Rural Community Councils are already doing good work for the preservation of the beauties and amenities of the rural portion of England.

BURIAL GROUNDS.

The problem of additional burial space in the three Riverside parishes, i.e. Bowers Gifford, Pitsea and Vange, is becoming a pressing one. Bowers Gifford Church has already asked for extension of their church yard. The site suggested was not very suitable for this purpose. It is heavy soil, low lying and not easy of access.

Pitsea Church yard is almost full, additional space will shortly be required there.

Vange church authorities have put up a proposal for an extension of their church yard: an extension is very necessary now.

I would suggest that the Council give consideration to this question as it affects these three parishes as a whole and not in a piecemeal manner. I would suggest that the Council seek for a suitable site for one burial ground which would satisfy the requirements of this part of your district for many years to come.

J. DOUGLAS WELLS
M.B., O.B.E.(Mil)
Ch.B.

Once again I tender my thanks to all the members of the Urban District Council for their consideration to me and their help.

Also I would record my grateful thanks to all my fellow officers of your Council for the willing help they always give me and for the kindly and pleasant spirit of co-operation which exists amongst your officers.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Sd/- J. DOUGLAS WELLS
M.B., O.B.E.(Mil).
Ch.B.

